II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. SPEAKER *RE* MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House that I have received the following messages, dated 23rd and 24th July 1957 from the Governor of Madras :—

1. " In pursuance of Article 207, clause (1) of the Constitution of India, I, A. J. John, Governor of Madras, hereby give my recommendation to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras General Sales Tax and Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1957.

2. " In pursuance of Article 207, clause (1) read with Article 199 (1) (d) of the Constitution of India, I, A. J. John, Governor of Madras, hereby give my recommendation to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras Appropriation Bill, 1957, and in pursuance of clause (3) of Article 207, I also recommend to that Assembly the consideration of the said Bill."

III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE UNDER RULE 40 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES, VIZ., THE LOCKOUT IN THE LOYAL TEXTILE MILLS, KOVILPATTI.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Sri P. S. Chinnadurai, has given notice that under rule 40 of the Assembly Rules, he will call attention of the Hon. Minister to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the Lockout in the Loyal Textile Mills, Kovilpatti. He will now explain the matter.

SRI P. S. CHINNADURAI : மதிப்பிற்குரிய சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, கோவில்பட்டியிலுள்ள " லாயல் டெக்ஸ்டைல்ஸ் " என்ற பஞ்சாலையை அதன் நிர்வாகிகள் சென்ற இரண்டு வாரங்களுக்கு முன்பு கதவடைப்பு செய்துவிட்டார்கள் என்ற செய்தி வந்திருக்கிறது. நமது ராஜ்யத்தின் இன்றைய நிலைமையில் இத்தகைய கதவடைப்புக்களைப் பற்றி அதி முக்கியமாகவும் அவசரமாகவும் கவனிக்க வேண்டும். அந்தக் கதவடைப்பை நீக்குவது சம்பந்தமாக இந்த அரசாங்கம் எடுத்துக்கொண்டுள்ள நடவடிக்கைகளை நான் அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The management of Loyal Textile Mills, Limited, Kovilpatti, entered into an agreement with the Kovilpatti Labour Union before the Commission of Labour on 25th February 1957 regarding workload and wages for the different categories of workers. This settlement was in force from 1st March to 16th May 1957. During this period, workers belonging to rival unions, viz., Kovilpatti Labour Union and Kovilpatti Textile Workers' Union did not give full co-operation for the implementation of the settlement.

The working of the settlement was consequently suspended from 15th May 1957 and the management reverted to old workload and wages from 16th May 1957.

Meanwhile the Unions which were not parties to the dispute represented to the Labour Officer, Tirunelveli and the Commissioner of Labour regarding the difficulties experienced during the implementation of the settlement.

The Labour Officer held discussions on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd June 1957 and persuaded the parties to come to a settlement. While the Unions insisted that the management should rectify the defects pointed out by them in the various departments before implementing the settlement, the management persistently refused to consider any such representation and asked the representatives to agree to the terms of settlement in toto. The discussions were not, therefore, fruitful.

On 29th June 1957, the management informed the Labour Officer that they would introduce the new workloads and wages as per the terms of settlement with effect from 9th July 1957, as the workers assured full co-operation in the matter. However, the management did not give effect to the settlement but carried on as usual with the old workloads and wages. Some of the workers are reported to have stages a stay-in-strike and disturbed others also. The management subsequently declared a lock-out at 11-45 a.m. on 10th July 1957.

The Labour Officer held discussions with the parties on 11th July 1957. The two Unions (which were not parties to the settlement) stated that they had no connection with the disturbances on 9th July 1957 and assured that they were prepared to agree to the implementation of the terms of settlement provided the management would rectify the defts pointed out by them.

The management and the I.N.T.U.C. Union however insisted upon the implementation of the settlement in toto.

The Labour Officer thereupon suggested that the terms of settlement might be implemented with an assurance for the formation of a Standing Committee which would go into the difficulties brought to its notice.

The Government meanwhile deputed the Assistant Commissioner of Labour to proceed to Kovilpatti and resolve the dispute amicably. The Assistant Commissioner of Labour accordingly left for Kovilpatti on 15th July 1957 and as a result of the conciliation taken up by him with the parties an amicable settlement has been effected. The two unions, Kovilpatti Labour Union (Chandravilas Buildings) and Textile Workers' Union have ratified the agreement, dated 25th February 1957, between the management and Kovilpatti Labour Union (I.N.T.U.C.) subject to certain modifications indicated in the memorandum of settlement. The management have also reopened the mills on 19th July 1957. The mills are now running smoothly.